1 **RESOLUTION PROMOTING HIGH STANDARDS**

2 **IN HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

3 1999 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Sponsor: David Ure**

6 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE URGING THAT THE UTAH HIGH

7 SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CONTINUE TO PROMOTE SUPERIOR

8 SPORTSMANSHIP IN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS AND EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS.

9 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

10   WHEREAS, participation in high school athletics can lay a positive groundwork for

11 understanding ideals of fair play, determination despite adversity, and working as a unit toward

12 a common goal;

13   WHEREAS, engaging in competitive physical activity that rewards excellence ĥ [effort] ĥ

13a and

14 urges improved performance through skills development can leave deep, positive impressions on

15 student athletes and brace them for the challenges of life;

16   WHEREAS, too often the behavior of participants and spectators in high school athletics,

17 whether towards each other or officiators, has become ugly and harsh, tainted by a lack of self

18 control, self respect, ĥ **RESPECT FOR OTHERS,** ĥ and true team pride;

19   WHEREAS, sportsmanship is an ideal too often mocked in today's society, but it is the key

20 to preserving much of what is good and lasting about high school athletics participation;

21   WHEREAS, living up to the ideal of sportsmanship is a challenge faced not only by student

22 athletes and classmates but also coaches, who often serve as role models and mentors to student

23 athletes, and parents, who in their children's early years set a powerful example of what is

24 acceptable treatment of others;

25   WHEREAS, the use of profane and vulgar language by participants and spectators at

26 athletic contests degrades the game, everyone connected with it, and erodes any feelings of respect

27 on the playing field, on the sidelines, and in the stands;

28   WHEREAS, in order to minimize health and safety risks to student athletes, maintain

29   ethical standards of fair play, and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never

30   supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for

31   performance enhancing purposes;

32   WHEREAS, athletes can gain valuable experience in developing discipline and self control

33   as they learn to control their temper and shun the physical and verbal violence so often displayed

34   at other levels of sports competition;

35   WHEREAS, athletics participation, which can supplement and enrich the high school

36   experience, can be harmful if it overshadows the academic mission that makes participation

37   possible;

38   WHEREAS, the kind of discipline that leads to scholastic excellence can also help athletes

39   achieve true sportsmanship, and success in both endeavors should be highly prized by student

40   athletes, parents, coaches, and anyone who exerts a significant influence in the life of a high school

41   athlete; and

42   WHEREAS, the members of the State Board of Trustees, acting for the good of the entire

43   state, can exert strong leadership to reestablish the ideal of excellence in academics and

44   sportsmanship:

45   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urge that

46   the Utah High School Activities Association continue to engage in efforts to promote

47   sportsmanship among Utah's high school athletes and all participants and spectators involved in

48   high school athletics.

49   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognize the positive influence that

50   participation in high school athletics can have when experienced as a supplement to the mission

51   of education rather than its purpose.

52   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all 118 member

53   schools of the Utah High School Activities Association.

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Legislative Review Note
 as of 1-20-99 12:03 PM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

 Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel